

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05132 161019Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5592

S E C R E T CAIRO 05132

NODIS

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, OAU, ET, SO, EG

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN OGADEN

REF: (A) STATE 40765, (B) CAIRO 4908

1. I SPOKE TO VP MUBARAK THIS MORNING ON SECURE PHONE TO TELL HIM I WAS BACK AND TO ASK THAT HE ARRANGE MEETING WITH SADAT. HE UNDERTOOK TO DO SO.

2. I ALSO ALLUDED TO SADAT QUERY RE "ARRANGEMENTS" HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT (REF B). THAT MESSAGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED SHORTLY BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON AND I HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS IT WITH CONCERNED DEPT OFFICIALS. WHILE WE WERE NOT CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT'S QUERY REFERRED TO, THERE HAD BEEN SOME DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WILL DOUBTLESS BE OF INTEREST TO SADAT.

3. FIRST, WE WANTED THE PRESIDENT TO KNOW THAT OUR POSITION RE THE OGADEN SITUATION REMAINS AS THE TWO PRESIDENTS HAD DISCUSSED DURING THEIR TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND AS DESCRIBED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT GISCARD.

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IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THIS LETTER HAD BEEN SHOWN TO SADAT. THE SECRETARY HAD ALSO OUTLINED OUR POSITION, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR SOMALIA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OGADEN, THE REMOVAL OF THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS AND A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

4. ON DIPLOMATIC MOVES DISCUSSED BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS,

I TOLD MUBARAK THAT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE BEST TACTIC FOR NOW IS TO WORK THROUGH ALREADY EXISTING MECHANISMS. WE SHOULD NOT YET GIVE UP ENTIRELY ON OAU, BUT SHOULD TRY TO STRENGTHEN ITS EFFORTS. WE HAVE IN TRAIN AN EFFORT TO HAVE THE ETHIOPIAN/SOMALI DISPUTES IN THE U.N., HOPEFULLY BY NIGERIANS OR GABONESE, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A UNSC RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD SET FORTH PRINCIPLES RELATED TO AN OGADEN SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES. PRIMARY THRUST OF ANY SUCH RESOLUTION WOULD BE TO PUT THE WEIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BEHIND OAU MEDIATION EFFORTS.

5. I ALSO TOLD MUBARAK OF SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY WHO IS BEING SENT TO ETHIOPIA IN EFFORT TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF OUR DIALOGUE AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO PERSUADE MENGISTU OF THE INADVISABILITY OF OVER-RELIANCE ON SOVIETS AND CUBANS.

6. IF PRESIDENT SADAT HAS ANY OTHER SPECIFIC POINTS IN MIND, I TOLD MUBARAK WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO TRY TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATION. MUBARAK IS MEETING WITH SADAT AT 1300 TODAY, AT WHICH TIME HE WILL INFORM THE LATTER OF ABOVE. IF SADAT HAS ANY OTHER QUESTIONS, MUBARAK WILL LET ME KNOW. SUBJECT WILL DOUBTLESS ALSO ARISE WHEN I MEET WITH SADAT. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO05132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850059-2010, N780002-0601
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780249/aaaabozl.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c735dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 40765, 78 CAIRO 4908
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3577317
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEVELOPMENTS IN OGADEN
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, ET, SO, EG, OAU
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c735dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014